

WI-356

1876, 1905, 1928

Asbury United Methodist Church  
Sharptown  
Public worship

Asbury United Methodist Church, historically identified with the Methodist Episcopal denomination, stands on the east side of Main Street in the center of Sharptown.

Sheathed with a veneer of brick, the Gothic Revival frame church was erected during the late nineteenth century and remodeled several times, first in 1905 and secondly in 1928.

The 1920s reworking of the church included the installation of a colored glass transom over the front doors. Integrated into the colored glass pattern is the name of the church as well as the 1928 date. Rising on the north side of the gable-front structure is a two-story tower that is capped by a short pyramidal spire enriched with scrolled eave brackets.

The congregation traces its origins back to the early years of the nineteenth century. Around 1804 a group organized at the home of Orasha Taylor near a place called Weatherly's Mill. E. C. Hallman's history of the congregation states that services were held in private homes between 1804 and 1832, when a lot was acquired near the village of Sharptown. On April 8, 1832, Elijah and Mary Roberson sold a one acre parcel of "Royal Exchange" to trustees Gideon Bradley Sr., James Twilley Sr., Robert Hitch, William Phillips, Elijah Moore and Elijah Hitch, all of whom resided in Sussex County, Delaware. The seventh trustee, Matthew Moran, was a resident of Somerset County. The Asbury congregation remained in this location until 1874-75 when a lot in the village of Sharptown was acquired. Six years later a second piece of land directly adjacent to the church was purchased for the "burying ground."

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-356

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Asbury M. E. Church

and/or common Asbury United Methodist Church

### 2. Location

street & number Main Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Sharptown \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Asbury United Methodist Church

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Sharptown state and zip code MD 21861

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber SPT 1

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 272

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-356

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☐ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Asbury United Methodist Church, historically identified as the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, is located on the east side of Main Street in the center of Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story, gable-front frame brick veneered frame church faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Reported to date to 1875-76, and remodeled in 1906 and again in 1928, the single-story, gable-front frame church is sheathed with a brick veneer added around 1960. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the north and south side of the church are small appendages. A two-story tower is located on the north side and a small gable roofed wing extends from the south side.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with the gable-front of the church juxtaposed against at the two-story tower to the north (left) and small gable roofed section to the south (right). Centered on the gable-front wall is a double door entrance sheltered by a gable roofed hood supported by chamfered edge stick brackets. The double doors are topped by a pointed arch transom filled with colored glass. The window includes "Asbury M. E. Church 1928." Fixed above the entrance is a five-part Gothic window also filled with colored glass. Five narrow lancet windows are grouped below a round window above. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and the upper gable is infilled with aluminum siding pierced by a tripartite vent. Fixed in the northwest corner of the foundation is a marble datestone inscribed, "Asbury M. E. Church, Built 1876, Rebuilt 1905."

The north side of the church is six bays across with the tower occupying the second bay. The first floor of the tower is sheathed with brick veneer, while the tower is covered with aluminum siding. There is a transition between the first floor and tower levels. The slightly smaller tower is capped by a curved profile pyramidal spire. The underside of the spire eave is embellished with decorative Victorian brackets. Fixed atop the spire is a metal finial that follows the shape of a three-dimensional fleur-de-lis. A rectangular window of colored glass pierces the north wall of the tower base. The adjacent bays are marked by rectangular window openings filled with colored glass windows. Soldier course brick arches span the window openings.

The south side is similarly treated with the main difference being the single-story gable roofed portion that occupies the second bay from the west. The other bays are defined by rectangular window openings filled with colored glass sash. The south wall of the gable-roofed extension is pierced by a rectangular window of colored glass.

The back wall of the church is partially covered by a single-story addition, which extends farther back with a frame section. Located behind the church is a large nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-356

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1876, 1905 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Asbury United Methodist Church, historically identified with the Methodist Episcopal denomination, stands on the east side of Main Street in the center of Sharptown. Sheathed with a veneer of brick, the Gothic Revival frame church was erected during the late nineteenth century and remodeled several times, first in 1905 and secondly in 1928. The 1920s reworking of the church included the installation of a colored glass transom over the front doors. Integrated into the colored glass pattern is the name of the church as well as the 1928 date. Rising on the north side of the gable-front structure is a two-story tower that is capped by a short pyramidal spire enriched with scrolled eave brackets.

The congregation traces its origins back to the early years of the nineteenth century. Around 1804 a group organized at the home of Orasha Taylor near a place called Weatherly's Mill.<sup>1</sup> E. C. Hallman's history of the congregation states that services were held in private homes between 1804 and 1832, when a lot was acquired near the village of Sharptown. On April 8, 1832, Elijah and Mary Roberson sold a one acre parcel of "Royal Exchange" to trustees Gideon Bradley Sr., James Twilley Sr., Robert Hitch, William Phillips, Elijah Moore and Elijah Hitch, all of whom resided in Sussex County, Delaware. The seventh trustee, Matthew Moran, was a resident of Somerset County.<sup>2</sup> The Asbury congregation remained in this location until 1874-75 when a lot in the village of Sharptown was acquired.<sup>3</sup> Six years later a second piece of land directly adjacent to the church was purchased for the "burying ground."<sup>4</sup>

The building deserves listing in *Category B*, which identifies buildings of architectural and historical merit.

<sup>1</sup> E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948, p. 344.

<sup>2</sup> Somerset County Land Record, GH 6/375, 8 April 1832.

<sup>3</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 1/272, 1 August 1874.

<sup>4</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 4/172, 10 November 1880.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-356

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 5/1/98

street &amp; number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438~~

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Asbury M. E. Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-356

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):    Architecture  
   Religion
  
2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):    Industrial/Urban Dominance  
   1870-1930
  
4. Resource Type(s):                   Church  
   Cemetery

WI-356  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
Sharptown  
Chain of title

Somerset County  
Land Record  
GH 6/375

Elijah Roberson  
Mary Roberson

to

4/8/1832

Gideon Badley, Sr.  
James Twilley, Sr.  
Robert Hitch  
William Phillips  
Elijah Moore  
Elijah Hitch, All of Sussex County, Delaware

Matthew Moran of Somerset County

tract called 'Royal Exchange' near Sharptown  
one acre "that they shall erect and build or cause to  
be erected and built thereon a house or place of  
worship for the use of the members of the Methodist  
Episcopal Church

Wicomico County  
Land Record  
SPT 4/172

John B. Taylor

to

11/10/1880

John Robinson, Robert Twilley, Hiram B. Cooper,  
James Robinson, James W. Bradley, Clement J.  
Gravenor, Robert M. L. Elzey, Major A. Robinson,  
and Thomas J. Twilley, Trustees of the Methodist  
Episcopal Church

"burying ground"

WI-356  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
Sharptown  
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Page 2

SPT 1/272

John B. Taylor  
Rebecca C. Taylor

to

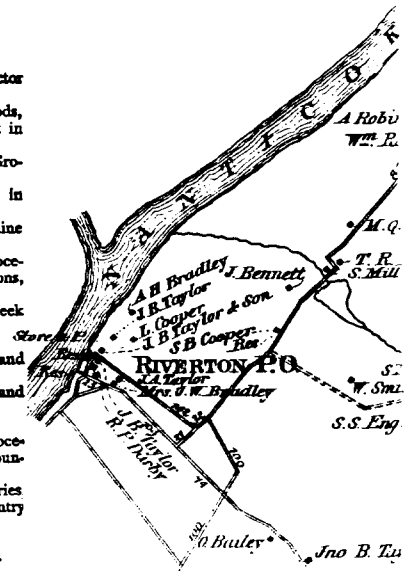
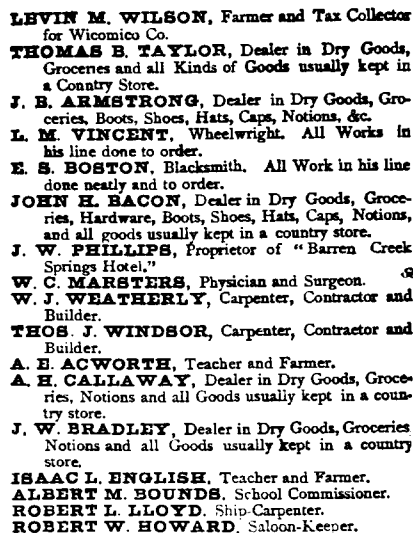
8/1/1874

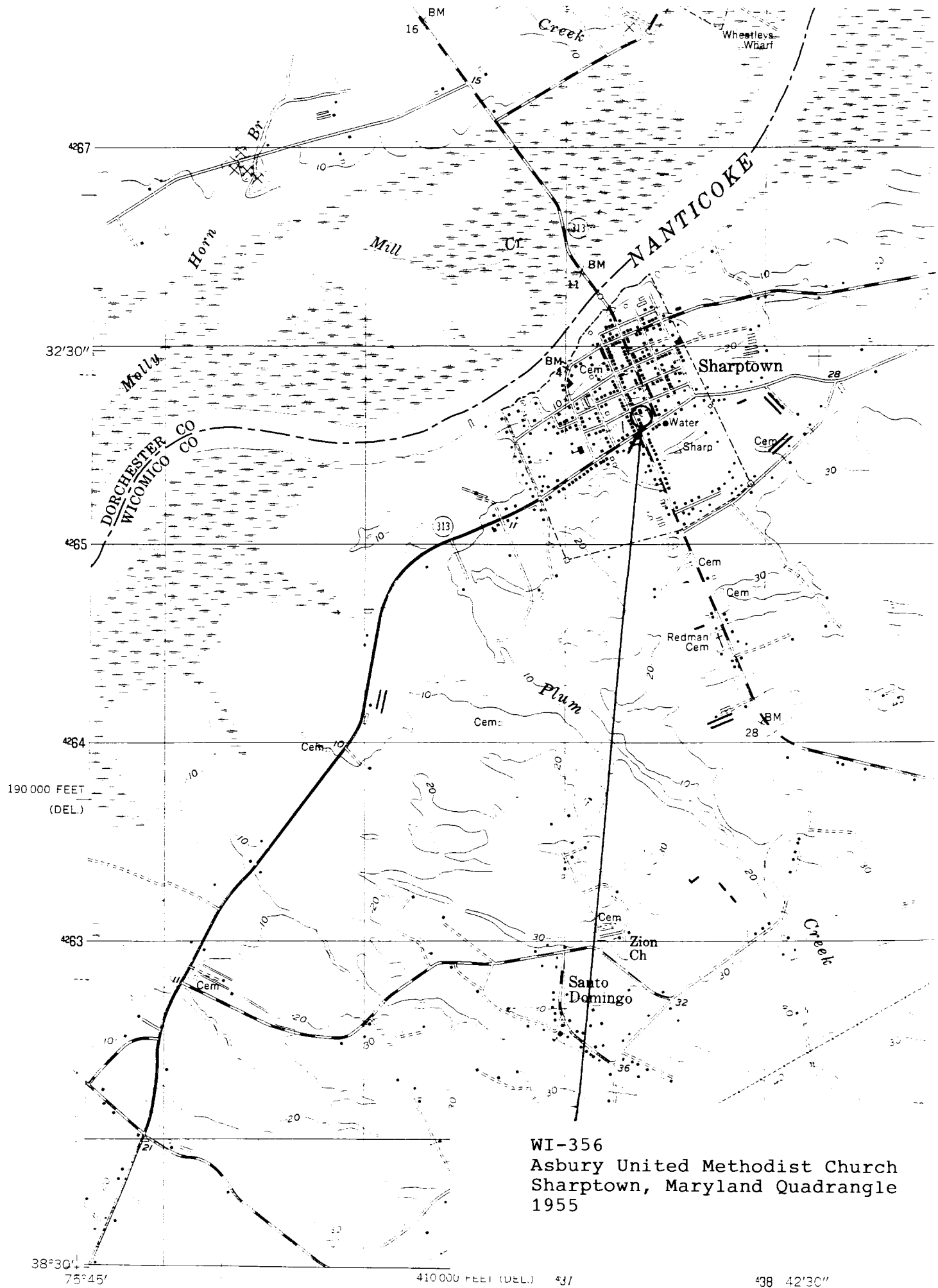
John Robinson of Eli, Robert Twilley, John Melson,  
Hiram B. Cooper, Robert M. L. Elzey, James W.  
Bradley, James Robinson, Thomas J. Twilley, and  
Clement J. Gravenor

½ acre Royal Exchange

that the said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and  
disposed of as a place of Divine Worship for the use of the  
ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal  
Church







Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey